THE LANSINGBURG CRIME.

INDIGNATION AT THE WORK OF MURPHY'S TOOLS.

MEASURES TAKEN TO BRING THE DEMOCRATIC GANG TO PUNISHMENT—HOW JAMES GILLESPIE, THE HONEST POLICEMAN' LEARNED WHAT WAS COMING AND RESIGNED AFTER A VAIN PROTEST.

Lansingburg, March 12 (Special).—"I am glad that my friends in Lansingburg won." This was what United States Senator Edward Murphy, jr., said to a reporter in Washington, after reading the account of the manner in which his Democratic friends in Lansingburg had overcome a Republican plurality of from 600 to 1,000. The reading of this account must have been most interesting to Senator Murphy. He must have chuckled to himself and rubbed one of his massive hands with the other in the intensity of his delight, not at the fact of the winning of the election in Lansingburg by "my friends," but on account of the manner in which that victory was won. Every conscientious tutor rejoices in the aptness of a pupil to follow his teachings, and those who become the most proficient in carrying out the master's instructions are the ones who usually receive the greatest praise.

The work by the Democrats at Lansingburg on last Tuesday was work of the Murphy school. It is the sort of political teaching that he has been expounding to the Democrats of this part of the State for many years, and he has reason to rejoice that his pupils have become such competent followers of his creed. Long has he taught it and for years have the people of this section suffered from it. The results of his teachings of this nature made him, first the political boss of the city of Troy, then the boss of Rensselaer County. After that he became the Mayor of the city, then chairman of the Democratic State Committee, and finally one of the representatives of the great State of New-York in the United States Senate. Troy, Cohoes, Albany, West Troy, Waterford, Watervliet and finally Lansingburg were made to feel the hand of this political tough. For years Murphy has had under his control a gang of 400 or 500 men of the very worst character, for whom there is no crime too base or devilish to commit if "Ed." Murphy ordered it. From stealing peanuts from an Italian fruit stand or an election in a neighboring town or hamlet to murder, nothing would appall them or prevent the commission of it, once Murphy's orders have been issued.

THE MEN WHO DID THE JOB.

No brigand chieftain ever had a more servile or a more desperate following. The gang with which he had done his political work is made up of men who owe much to him. He has prevented the law from punishing them for crimes that they have committed in their own interest as well as on his account. When they want to work, which is not often, he has them employed along the canal, the patronage of which he controls absolutely through the State Engineer and Surveyor, Martin Schenck, one of his lieutenants. These men, therefore, have come to believe that Murphy is invincible. They have found that as long as they did his bidding law was a farce, and also when they occasionally reached such a high lane of conscientiousness that they wanted to earn an honest dollar or two, Murphy could put them in the way of doing it. Also many a dishonest dollar was earned by them on his account.

For years it has been the desire of Mr. Murphy and his associates to subjugate to the Murphy control the village of Lansingburg. It has been the one bright Republican spot that was free from his assaults, and for that reason most of its citizens believed that the day never would come when he would descend upon it with his gang of roughs and rowdies, and by fraud, corruption and brute force, take it away from those to whom it rightfully belongs. But for a year or so the Republicans of Lansingburg have had warning which they would not heed, that an attack was to be made upon them this spring. When by accident, owing to local troubles in the Republican party, the Democratic president of the village was elected, it was foreseen that there was trouble ahead for the Republicans. Then the Democrats obtained control of the Legislature, and bills were passed that turned over the police force to the minority in the village. This was, of course, Murphy's first place of attack. As long as the police force of Lansingburg was in the hands of Republicans there was not much personal safety for his creatures to attempt any of their fraudulent voting here. Had they attempted it at any time before the police force was legislated into Murphy's hands, the Republican Chief of Police would have made short work of them. But the Legislature a year ago passed a law allowing the president of the village to appoint three police commissioners, two of whom should be Democrats and one a Republican. This year the Legislature passed the bill allowing this Police Board to appoint the election inspectors. The president of the village appointed as the Democratic commissioners two men who were owned absolutely by Mr. Murphy, and the Republican commissioner was allowed to have nothing to say.

THE POLICE FORCE "FIXED."

The first thing that the Democratic Police Commissioners did was to get rid of a faithful and honest Chief of Police and to appoint in his place a man named McCabe, whose action on last Tuesday may result in his serving a term of years in prison. It will, if justice is done, but it is hard to find justice in a section of the State where most of the judges are the personal property of the political boss in whose interest the Chief of Police did this work. Then they dismissed from the police force every man, Democrat and Republican, who could be depended upon to do his duty, and appointed in their places a number of men who could be used on just such occasions as last Tuesday was. The Republican commissioner, however, was allowed to appoint one man to the force. This man was James Gillespie, who resigned on Tuesday afternoon, refusing to remain on a police force that would protect the perpetration of the foul election crimes that were carried on with the assistance of the police all the day, from the moment that the polls opened in the morning until after the count was made at night. Gillespie was really the only officer on the entire force who dared to do his duty in the face of Edward Murphy's orders. With a Democratic Board of Police Commissioners, a Democratic police force, saving one honest man and with Murphy behind them, the gangs of repeaters from Albany, Troy and Cohoes had it all their own way and rolled up such a large majority for the entire Democratic ticket that in many instances the Democratic election inspectors would not return all of the ballots that had been cast.

PREPARATIONS MADE FAR IN ADVANCE.

The fraud and corruption that were practised on last Tuesday are now pretty well known throughout the length and breadth of the entire country. Republicans and Democrats both from many different States and from many sections of the country have seat expressions of their contempt for the man who is responsible for the crimes and disgust for those who carried out his orders. Preparations were made several weeks before election to import men from Troy, West Troy, Albany and Cohoes to vote here as many times as their audacity and the boldness of the Democratic election inspectors and the police would permit them to vote. It was arranged that the repeaters were to get 50 cents for each time that they voted. Word of the contemplated outrage was brought to the Republican leaders soon after the plans for the importation of the repeaters was decided upon and they did all in their power to stir up the citizens of the village to a point where they, by force if necessary, should repel the invasion of the horde of Murphy heelers from the neighboring cities. But having lived so long in such close proximity with the danger, they would not believe the warning voices until it was too late. When they came out to vote on Tuesday morning, they did not see around the polls men whom they knew. The election officers were strangers and they found at each polling place a motley crowd of tough-looking individuals who were voting as rapidly as the inspectors could give out names upon which they were to vote and the folded tickets for them to vote. Not a Republican inspector and poll clerk could be found. In their places were men who were appointed as Republicans, but who were in reality Democrats and Democrats of the Murphy stripe, or men who had once been Republicans but had been kicked out of the party, and had sold themselves to the Democrats to do their bidding. The Democratic majority on the Board of Police Commissioners had refused to appoint as inspectors and poll clerks the men whose names had been sent to them by the officers of the Republican town committee. As it was, the Police Commissioners did not announce the names of the men of either party whom they had decided to appoint until the night before election, so there was no opportunity left for an appeal to the courts.

THE GANG REACHES TOWN.

Among the list of Democrats named was a certain "Mike" Lucie, an ex-prize fighter, and a confirmed tough, who was made the chairman of the election board in his election district. The appointment of this man alone would have been a sufficient disgrace for any town to be burdened with, without having the greater disgrace cast upon it. During the whole of Monday night gangs of men began to reach the village and to find quarters at the gin-mills owned by the leading Democratic politicians. A gang of thirty men put up at one place alone. The original plan of the leaders was to get the votes of the repeaters into the boxes early in the morning, but this plan miscarried on account of the too free use of the cheap poison sold under the name of whiskey. By morning most of the repeaters were boiling drunk, and in a condition to do about anything that they were told to do. As soon as the word came that the polls were open they started out under the care of the lieutenants of the boss to show them where the polling places were. They went in gangs of ten and twelve, and in many instances the members of each gang voted as many as five times on the first round. The policemen stood by and protected the repeaters, and when they were challenged by the Republican watchers, who, for a time, were allowed to be within twenty feet of the railings, the officers obediently told the Republicans to shut up, or they would throw them out.

A dozen times during the day leading citizens appealed to the Chief of Police to stop the fraud that was going on, but he turned a deaf ear to them. The only answer that he would make was that he could not make an arrest unless the chairman of the Board of Election Inspectors ordered him to do so. At several of the polling places the Republican watchers were picked up bodily by the repeaters and, with the assistance of the police, carried out of the room in which the elections were going on into the street, and the door barred to them thereafter during the day. It was on account of such doings as this that Officer Gillespie refused further to remain on the police force and turned in his club and badge to the Chief of Police, who abused him roundly for this exhibition of common decency. The votes were counted and the returns were made out as the bosses dictated; and up to that point Mr. Murphy and his associates in the perpetration of the crimes of the day were ahead.

FIGURES SWELLED BEYOND ALL REASON.

The most brazen repeating was done in the First and Third Wards. The highest vote heretofore polled in the First Ward at any election was 594; but on Tuesday 721 votes were returned from it. In the Third Ward the highest number of votes that had been cast at an election previous to this was 603, but the ruffians who ran this election for Edward Murphy, jr., gave returns showing that 845 votes had been cast. Ordinarily at spring elections the full vote of either party is not out, and the falling off from the vote in Presidential years is in the neighborhood of 700. Owing to the unusual efforts that were made by the Republicans on the last day or two before the election to get out as large a Republican vote as possible, there would be a normal increase over the usual spring vote of from 300 to 400 votes. Under these conditions 1,800 votes would have been about as high as ought to have been cast.

The Murphy inspectors, however, returned 2,958 as the votes cast in the village of Lansingburg, and 96 as the number polled in the town outside of the village of Lansingburg. This is within 100 of the highest number of votes that ever were cast in both the village and the town at any election. The only reason why a large number of votes was not returned by the inspectors as having been cast was because late in the day the United States Senator's lieutenants saw that they had overdone the matter, and orders were sent out for the inspectors of election to cut down their figures.

INDIGNANT REPUBLICANS RESTRAINED.

A few hours after the polls opened on election day the Republicans saw that there was no use to attempt to do anything to prevent the carrying out of the orders that had come on from Washington. The Republican rank and file was in favor of going in and by force of arms taking possession of the ballot boxes and the booths and seeing that there was a fair election for the rest of the day. They wanted to give battle to the ruffians marching under the Murphy colors and drive them from the town. This course would have been pursued and it would have been carried out to the extreme had it not been for the efforts of ex-Senator Albert C. Comstock, who advised his friends and followers to do nothing that might result in the commission of a greater crime, in the eyes of the law, than the theft of an election. He meant murder. He knew that the Murphy men were desperate and that they were drunk, and in case of a personal encounter innocent men might be compelled to suffer. His advice was to punish the perpetrators of the crime in the courts, and his advice has taken such shape that a plan of procedure is now under discussion, and the citizens of the village, irrespective of party, have united to punish the men who made a burlesque of the highest right of an American citizen, the casting of a free ballot at each election.

On the day following the election the decent men of this village met and talked with one another over the work of the day before. As they considered the extent of the crime that had been committed and the opinion in which they would be held by the rest of the world in case those who were responsible for it and those who took part in it were not ferreted out and punished, it was resolved on all sides by the decent people of the town that a public meeting should be held, and that steps should be taken to punish all those who are known or who can be found to be connected in any way with bringing this disgrace on the village. Reputable Democrats were as loud and as bitter in their denunciations of the outrage as were the Republicans, who were made to suffer most by the acts of the repeaters and their bosses. The idea of holding a public meeting took shape, and on Thursday night Concert Hall, the largest building here, was packed to suffocation with the representative men and women of the village. Democrats, Republicans, Mugwumps, Prohibitionists, Socialists and Labor party men sat side by side, and encouraged by their presence, their cheers, and, later on, in a more substantial way, by their subscriptions of money, the cause which they had met there to prosecute. Among the officers of the meeting were a number of leading Democrats.

RUSSELL PORTER'S SIGNIFICANT LETTER.

There was the most intense excitement at one point in the meeting when a letter from Russell Porter, who was the Democratic candidate for justice of the peace, was read, declaring that he would not accept an election to an office when it had been secured by fraud. In closing his letter he said: "And I do hereby publicly announce that my future affiliations will be with the party that is in favor of pure elections and an honest count." Mr. Porter's name led the list of vice-presidents of the meeting. Resolutions were then adopted denouncing the outrage, and calling for the appointment of a law and order league with full power to act for the citizens of the village. Officer Gillespie also was publicly thanked in the resolutions, and three cheers were given on his account when his name had been read. Inside of half an hour after it had been proposed to raise funds to employ counsel to ferret out the men who were responsible for the crime, and to punish those who were known to be among those who helped to carry it out, nearly $3,000 was raised, and more money is coming in daily.

One of the Democrats of the Murphy stripe who came in for a large amount of criticism for his connection with the doings of last Tuesday was Police Commissioner Slatterly. He is charged with being the man who, next to Senator Murphy, is mostly responsible for the importation and the protection from arrest of the repeaters. He is a salesman for the firm of A. Klipstein, dealers in chemicals in New-York City. Commissioner Slatterly was about the village all of the day, and he could have stopped the entire proceeding, had he wanted to, in a minute. It is charged by the members of the Law and Order League that he only carried out the commands of one higher up in the ranks of the Democratic state machine, whose present address is the Senate Chamber, Washington, D. C. All these things will come out, however, during the trials that are to follow.

HARD WORK TO FIND COUNSEL.

Immediately after Commissioner Slatterly and his associates, who were on the ground at the time when the repeaters were doing their work and were at least cognizant of it, learned of the determination of the citizens of this village to punish them, they hurried around to get lawyers to defend them. Naturally they turned first to men who were made by Mr. Murphy and elected to office through his beneficence. They went first to the Assistant District-Attorney of Rensselaer County, Thomas S. Fagin. Mr. Fagin is not one of those lawyers who is at all squeamish about the character of the cases that he might have in hand, but he did not relish this one at all, and he finally told the men who went to him that they would have to go to some one else to help them out. He did not want to have anything to do with the case. Then the leaders of the gang turned to County Judge Griffith. Judge Griffith is frequently retained in election cases of a somewhat similar character to this one. He is a devoted Murphy man, but he also has refused to take the case. Judge Griffith was the man who made the fight to have Michael Collins, of Troy, seated in the Senate in the face of a clear majority of about 700 for his opponent, John H. Derby. So it can be seen that this lawyer would not have any conscientious scruples against taking an ordinary election case where he might secure a victory from a partisan senate, or on account of some legal technicality. To whom the rascals will go next it is hard to say, for no lawyer of standing or reputation here in Troy or Albany cares to defend them.

In the meantime, the Republicans are hard at work preparing their case for the courts. Ex-Judge Countryman, of Albany, has been retained, and he will meet with the Committee of the Law and Order League tomorrow night, at the office of ex-Senator Comstock. The affidavits of the Republicans, who voted the straight Republican ticket, are being taken, and over 1,000 have already sworn that they voted for the Republican candidates.

OFFICER GILLESPIE'S STORY.

Officer James Gillespie, who refused to remain on the police force the commanding officer of which would permit men to trample the law under foot, as the repeaters and their backers did, is the hero of this village, and it will be a long time before his action will be forgotten. The Tribune correspondent called upon him at his home here last night and obtained from him the whole story of the day.

"When did you first learn that an attempt would be made to carry the election by force?" he was asked.

"It was on the night of February 27. I had been on duty all day, and I did not have to go on duty again until midnight. Soon after supper I went upstairs to the room where the men sleep and lay down on my bed. There is an oilcloth floor in the hallway, and some time after I had been asleep I was awakened by the sound of men walking across it. I heard two men talking in the hallway. One of them was Commissioner Slatterly. He was telling some one that he (the person to whom he was talking) had everything to gain and nothing to lose. He also told him that if he had money enough he could elect the Democratic ticket on Election Day. Then I heard the Commissioner say: 'I want you to think of a couple of inspectors down there, Republican inspectors, that we can use.' The man named a certain person, but Slatterly did not like him, saying: 'I am afraid of him. He is likely to "get full" and give the whole thing away. We want inspectors down in your district that know enough to keep their mouths shut. We want men who will know enough to give us as much as seventy-two majority in your district. We want from that to 100.'

THEY FOUND THE MAN TO DO THE JOB.

"Then another person came up from the office and joined Slatterly in the hallway. Slatterly asked him if he had selected the Republican inspector for the 1st District of the Second Ward. The man said no, but he added that he had a man who he thought would make a good inspector. Slatterly then asked him where he was. The man replied that he could get him in a few minutes. The man went away and soon returned with one Fletcher. The man introduced Fletcher to the Commissioner. Then Slatterly said: 'Mr. Fletcher, we think of making you election inspector in your district on election day.' To this the man replied that he had not had much experience in that business. 'You won't need any. There will be two Democrats there who will do the business for you. All that it will be necessary for you to do is to sign the roll. The town will pay you something for your day's work and we will give you something from our charity fund.' There the conversation ended.

"On Election Day the chief would not send me out. He kept me in the station-house on reserve. I stood it until a man came in and complained that his gang that numbered thirteen had voted from five to eight times each and they were getting mad because they could not get their pay. When the chief came in I told him that I would not remain on a police force that allowed such things to be done, and I turned in my badge and club and left the building."

Mr. Gillespie will lose nothing for leaving the police force, if the temper of the people remains as it is for the next week or so.

ARMY AND NAVY NOTES.

A REPORT ON THE VESUVIUS TEST.

THE NEW SECRETARIES OF WAR AND THE NAVY—LIEUTENANT BUHLER'S INVENTION, THE SOLAROMETER, TO TEST AMERICAN RIFLES.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, March 12.—The report of the board which recently tested the guns and the gun mechanism of the dynamite cruiser Vesuvius has been received at the Navy Department. In all fifty-two projectiles were fired from the Vesuvius, thirty-one of which were dummies and twenty of the service type. The board found that while, as to accuracy, the vessel's guns leave much to be desired, they are reasonably sufficient for naval warfare in comparatively smooth water, the only condition under which the tests were carried on. The value of the guns was found to be increased by the fact that the projectiles contained a heavy charge of high explosives, and also that these explosives can be safely discharged when the shell is primed with a fulminate fuse. The particular fuse used in the recent trials failed to perform its functions satisfactorily, but, in the opinion of the board, it can be used with safety, and improvements might increase its efficiency.

One of the chief merits of the gun system on the Vesuvius is that its usefulness begins at about the range where that of the auto-mobile torpedoes now in vogue ceases; and that while it is true that daylight is necessary in order to utilize the gun's ranges, it is thought that a vessel so armed would still be useful at night for annoying groups of hostile ships, firing upon harbors, dock yards, etc. The absence of flashes or smoke in discharging the guns is considered by the board of much value, for both offensive and defensive purposes.

The board goes into a consideration of the question whether high explosives can be fired with safety from ordinary guns, but without coming to definite conclusions. However this question may be decided, the board is of the opinion that the system installed on the Vesuvius is, on the whole, of decided practical value, although the defective fuses and several other points connected with the mechanism of the guns require attention. The board submitted several suggestions looking to improvements in the Vesuvius system and the general conclusion is reached that in a limited sphere the vessel would be useful for Naval warfare.

One week of the Administration of the Army and Navy under Secretaries Lamont and Herbert, has passed. It was feared that the rush of visitors to the War and Navy Departments—some with and others without "axes"—would interrupt public business greatly, but such, happily, is found not to be the case. Despite 1,000 calls, both Secretaries have found time to carry on the routine work of their respective offices. The experience in the work of the Executive Departments gained by Colonel Lamont while private secretary to Mr. Cleveland proves to be of great value to him in his new post. Secretary Herbert brought to the Navy Department a thorough familiarity with its general responsibilities and this, coupled with remarkable industry and ready perception, have prevented any delays in the routine work of this busy department. Secretary Herbert considered and signed the entire week's mail, besides attending to other numerous details of his new duties. The important and more or less technical matter of concluding arrangements for the naval review had the new Secretary's personal attention. Officials at the Department refer in complimentary terms to Secretary Herbert's very agreeable manners.

It is expected that the successors of Assistant Secretaries Grant and Soley will be appointed at an early day. Mr. Soley has handed in his resignation to take effect immediately, in order that he may begin the practice of his profession with the law firm of which ex-Secretary Tracy is the senior member. Ex-Representative McAdoo, formerly a member of the House Committee on Naval Affairs, ex-Naval Constructor Nixon, now with Cramp's Ship and Engine Company, and Captain Parker, a former Naval officer, are prominently mentioned as Mr. Soley's successor. General Ordway, commanding officer of the District National Guard, and General Underwood, of Kentucky, are mentioned for the place of Assistant Secretary of War.

The solarmeter, the invention of Lieutenant Buhler, of the Navy, has been successfully tested on board the lighthouse steamer Violet. The solarmeter is the result of experiments made by Lieutenant Buhler while on duty in the Hydrographic Office, and is said to be an invention of practical importance to navigators. By the solarmeter it is possible to determine accurately a vessel's position at sea and also her compass error by observations of the sun, moon or stars independently of the visibility of the sea horizon and without any elaborate calculations. For purposes of observation the instrument is mounted on the deck of a vessel and occupies a space of about six feet in diameter. It is arranged with a constant level base—a cast-iron float placed in a bowl containing 280 pounds of mercury. The bowl is supported on gimbals attached to a deck stand. The method of observing is to adjust one graduated arc to the declination of the sun, moon or stars, as given in the Nautical Almanac tables, and then to turn the telescope to the heavenly body. To get the desired body in the axis of the telescope it is necessary to raise or lower the pole of the instrument, and when it is adjusted so that the body is visible, the angle shown on the graduated arc is the latitude of the ship. Given the latitude, the longitude can be determined by obtaining the "hour angle" of the sun and applying at once the local sun time. When an observation is taken it is possible to know accurately whether it is right or wrong. By use of Lieutenant Buhler's invention and the usual navigation tables, it is possible to determine a ship's position at any time when bodies are visible in the sky, however obscured the horizon may be. Logarithms are no longer necessary in arriving at absolutely certain results. An index on the instrument in line with the ship's keel shows how far the compass is in error with respect to the true north and south.

Information has been received here that the Army Magazine Rifle Board, composed of Colonel Otis, Lieutenant Colonels Hall and Farley, Major Freeman and Captains Anderson and Blunt, has met and organized at Springfield, Mass. This board was convened for the purpose of examining and testing all magazine rifles of American invention presented to it between now and March 31. With the exception of Colonel Otis, the same board recently adopted the Krag-Jorgensen rifle—the invention of a Danish officer—for the Army and National Guard. During the last Congress certain Senators and Representatives expressed no little displeasure at the idea of adopting a foreign arm for the military service of the country, and had inserted in the Army Appropriation bill a provision that none of the Krag-Jorgensen guns should be manufactured until further trials of American inventions of the kind had been held. Both the Senate and House carefully considered this question, and there was a general sentiment in both Houses that every effort to secure a gun invented by an American should be made before a foreign invention was adopted for use. Certain Senators were emphatic in the statement that the Army now had too many foreign military implements, and that it was time to call a halt.

It is presumed that the present board fully appreciates the circumstances which called it together, and that it will give a full, fair test to the American guns brought before it. It is known that three rifles of American invention will be presented to the board in the next few days. These are the improved Lee, the White and the Gurst rifles. The Lee gun is now used in the Navy. The White gun is considered by experts to be a wonderfully simple and efficient piece. It can be quickly loaded and fired, and possesses the advantage of being one pound lighter in weight than the Krag-Jorgensen. Practically nothing is known of the Gurst rifle. Its friends claim many advantages for it, however. It seems quite natural to hope that, all things being equal, an American invention will be adopted by the board. Congress clearly intended this to be the case, and proper patriotic ideas appear to be behind such intention.

Perhaps no recent court-martial case in military circles has attracted greater attention than that of Brigadier-General D. G. Swaim, the suspended Judge Advocate General of the Army. Since his trial and conviction in 1884 General Swaim has resorted to all known legal means to have the severe sentence in his case set aside or mitigated, but all his efforts in this direction have been unavailing. Only a few days ago the General's last hope—a favorable decision from the Court of Claims—was dashed by a ruling by that court adverse to his interest. It is now understood that General Swaim has concluded to abandon further attempts to secure redress, and that he will ask to be placed on the retired list, thus creating a vacancy at the head of his corps.

The charges upon which General Swaim was convicted related to his private financial engagements, and were brought against him by the banking firm of Bateman & Co. The first sentence of the court-martial was suspension from rank and duty for three years. President Arthur disapproved this sentence on the ground that it was too lenient. A second sentence was then passed reducing the General to the rank of a major and suspending him for one year. In the opinion of President Arthur this sentence was illegal, as the co-operation of the Senate was necessary, such reduction in rank being virtually an appointment. The third sentence of the court was suspension for twelve years on half pay, and this one was finally approved. In case of his retirement General Swaim would receive three-quarters pay. During his nine years of suspension Colonel G. L. Leiber has performed the duties of Judge Advocate General in a highly creditable manner, and it is believed that he will succeed General Swaim upon the latter's retirement.

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST CHOLERA.

STRICT REGULATIONS ENFORCED IN ROTTERDAM AND HAMBURG.

Washington, March 12.—The Treasury Department is officially advised by the Department of State that steerage traffic between European ports and the United States, which was discontinued on January 1, has been resumed. United States Consul Gardner, at Rotterdam, in a report to the State Department gives a detailed account of the precautions taken there to prevent the emigration of persons affected with contagious diseases. He states that all steerage passengers are examined by the consular doctors; their baggage is disinfected by consular employes, and a certificate of both passenger and baggage is made by the Consul. In addition to the safeguards against transmission of disease afforded by the local system of examination made immediately before embarkation, a new hotel designed exclusively for the accommodation of steerage and second-class passengers on the way to the United States, has been built.

This hotel, known as the Nasm, is owned by the Netherlands-American Company and is solely under their management. It contains all the modern conveniences of a first class hostelry, with an experienced steward, assisted by waiters and guards. The hotel is in the immediate neighborhood of the docks. The beds are like cabin beds on shipboard, but larger. The sanitary arrangements are of the most modern construction. A coffee room in which only temperance beverages are sold at a minimum cost is also provided. The entire control of this building according to Dutch laws is in the hands of the Commissioner of Emigration, although the United States Consul has free access to the building. A hospital room in a building apart from the hotel has also been provided where any diseased suspect may be at once wholly isolated.

All steerage passengers destined for the United States from Rotterdam are met at incoming trains by officers and servants of the steamship company, and by boat are at once transferred to the hotel adjacent to the steamship wharf, there to remain under such surveillance as may be necessary until the next steamer sails. Should the need at any time arrive, it would be possible to quarantine 600 or 800 people within the hotel quite as effectually as though they were on shipboard.

Consul Gardner states that within the last three or four years the rate of steerage sailing from Rotterdam to New-York has increased in the ratio of the added restrictions upon immigration imposed by the United States authorities. The rate for steerage passage in 1891 was $20.40, while at the present time it is $31.20. The class of people going in the steerage has also shown an improvement, more or less closely corresponding to the increase of cost of passage.

United States Consul Estes, at Hamburg, has submitted a report of the precautions that he has adopted. All vessels sailing from Hamburg for ports in the United States before they can obtain their bill of health, must be thoroughly disinfected according to the instructions of the United States Marine Hospital Service. This disinfection is superintended by Dr. W. L. Homann, a Hamburg Government surgeon, who uses the Hamburg Police Department seal on his certificate of disinfection. Further, the crews of vessels carrying immigrants are medically examined by Dr. Homann and Dr. Nash, a deputy of Dr. Jenkins, the Health Officer in New-York. These physicians issue a joint certificate as to this examination.

All passengers not traveling in the saloon are medically examined before embarkation by Dr. Homann in his capacity as Government surgeon and by a physician of the steamship company. This examination is made in the presence of either the Consul or Vice-Consul, and a certificate to that effect is annexed to the passenger manifest of the vessel. Both of the physicians issue a certificate besides, which declares the passenger to be in good health and free from all infectious diseases. The bill of health, which is not delivered to the steamship until these requirements have been complied with, bears across its face in red ink the exact number of cholera cases and deaths which have been reported to the Hamburg Senate (Cholera Commission) during the fortnight previous to the date of the bill of health. All the above-mentioned documents bear the authentication of the United States Consul. Consul Estes also states that all passengers coming from Russia and Austria-Hungary are obliged to observe a quarantine of at least six days under police surveillance before they are permitted to go on board ship.

A BIG NEW BANK IN VENEZUELA.

Washington, March 12.—E. H. Plumacher, Consul at Maracaibo, Venezuela, has informed the State Department of the issuing of a charter by the government of that country for the establishment of a bank which appears to have some features in common with the sub-treasury scheme recently agitated in the United States. The charter was issued to M. de Espino, in the name of Randolph de Paula, and authorizes him to establish in Europe the National Agricultural and Commercial Bank of Venezuela. Its capital stock is fixed at 50,000,000 bolivars, equivalent to $9,250,000 in United States money, and the bank shall have the right to issue notes to the amount double its capital stock, the Government of Venezuela guaranteeing 6 per cent interest upon the amount used in hypothetical operations. The bank may begin operations with 20,000 bolivars, and shall establish branches at Maracaibo, Valencia, Ciudad, Bolivar, Puerto, Cabello and Barquisemeto. Consul Plumacher says the institution is intended for the benefit of the agricultural element of the country, accommodations being extended to them at the rate of 7 per cent. The Government guarantees it to be secured by the deposit of a portion of the "fomento" (interior) income, reserved in the distribution of special incomes of the States, the account to be balanced at the end of the year, and the surplus to remain at the disposal of the Government.

HE WILL FOLLOW SECRETARY TRACY'S EXAMPLE.

Washington, March 12.—Secretary Herbert has said that he did not favor making changes among the mechanics of the navy yards because of politics, and would follow the practice of his predecessor in this respect.

NO EDITORS WILL GET OFFICE.

Washington, March 12.—"The Post" says: "The assertion that editors are not generally to be recognized by the new Administration is true. Mr. Cleveland believes that his predecessor suffered through the charge of having subsidized the press, and he does not intend to run the same gauntlet. The decision is also to be made particularly applicable to newspaper men who desire to be postmasters in their own towns. Mr. Bissell has had the names of some country editors presented to him in connection with various post-offices, but has uniformly declined to give any encouragement to the office-seeker. He lays down the principle that in small towns all the utterances of the newspaper over which the postmaster presides will be regarded as the views of the Administration, while on the other hand, all praise of Mr. Cleveland's acts will be discounted because it emanates from the recipient of official favor. Therefore, Mr. Bissell does not propose to appoint any editors to postmasterships, and the President will observe the same rule in disposing of the higher offices."

A ROYAL COMMISSION TO COME FROM KOREA.

Washington, March 12.—The Korean Legation is informed by cable from Seoul that the newly appointed Royal Commissioner to the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, has started for this country, and the exhibit has been shipped to San Francisco. The Royal Commissioner, Jeung Klung Won, is of high rank in the Korean Government, and is accompanied by many attaches.

SERMONS WORTH KEEPING.

XVII.

DR. J. R. DAVIES ON THE GOOD SHEPHERD.

A DISCOURSE BY THE NEW PASTOR OF THE FOURTH AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The Fourth Avenue Presbyterian Church was organized in 1825, and in the nearly seventy years that have passed it has had only five pastors, and the fifth one has only been installed one week. Dr. Howard Crosby, the previous pastor, served the church for more than twenty-eight years, and the people are so well pleased with Dr. Davies that they hope this pastorate will be longer than the preceding one.

THE REV. DR. J. R. DAVIES.

Dr. Davies has entered upon his new work with the ardor of youth, backed by a successful pastoral experience of ten years in Pennsylvania. He did not accept this field because he expected to find it strewn with roses, and some of his people already begin to think that membership in the old church now may involve more personal activity than formerly. "Son, go work to-day" seems to be the motto text of the pastor for himself and others. In calling for teachers in the Sunday-school, he said: "There are two or three teachers needed now," and added: "There are no vacant classes, but there is room for the classes, and we want teachers to volunteer, who will promise to go out and get the classes which they are to teach." The invitation was immediately accepted by at least one person. Although the new pastor has had little time for calling, yet several families that had been waiting till they saw who was to be called have promised to take pews in the church.

ACTIVE IN THE WORK OF THE CHAPELS.

Besides the work in Fourth-ave, Dr. Davies is taking an active interest in the two chapels of the church, attending the services, becoming acquainted with the workers and informing himself regarding the needs of the field. Hope Chapel, in East Fourth-st., between Avenues C and D, is in the district termed by the Presbytery's committee on the spiritual needs of the city "genuinely foreign missionary ground, where methods well adapted or even moderately successful in other localities are likely to prove of little service." Grace Chapel, in East Twenty-second-st. near First-ave., is in a field which calls for the most diligent services possible to make progress against the new conditions which confront the workers. The pastor of Grace Chapel is the Rev. James Hunter, and the pastor of Hope Chapel is the Rev. John B. Devins.

Dr. Davies, besides being active in organizing his people for an aggressive work, is an acceptable preacher. His sermons are delivered without manuscript, though they show careful preparation. They are simple in structure, and, therefore, easily remembered. They are also practical in their bearing, and, therefore, helpful. His delivery is not so emphatic in manner as that of some preachers, but the hearer is carried on from point to point with the even flow of the river rather than the rush and tumble of cataract.

CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHARD.

Yesterday morning Dr. Davies preached from these words: "I am the good shepherd" (John x, 11). The following is an outline of his discourse:

The scenery of the Scriptures is very largely agricultural. As you move through its pages you follow the plough turning the furrows, you see the sower going forth to sow, you watch the grain ripening in the fields, you join with the reaper in the toil of the harvest, and frequently you meet the shepherd leading his flock in green pastures and beside the still waters. With these facts before us, we are not surprised to find both psalmist and prophet using the figure of a shepherd to illustrate the ministry of the Meslah, and in harmony with this feature of Old Testament teaching, our Saviour calls Himself in our text, "the good shepherd." Why is Christ the good shepherd? An answer to this question will constitute the burden of our message to you this Sabbath morning.

1. Christ is the good shepherd because he leads His people. Few scenes are more interesting to the traveller in the Orient, than the sight of a flock of sheep following their shepherd, who leads them from pasture to pasture, as need may require, or as circumstances may demand. To the Christian, no matter where may be his home, such a sight recalls at once the leadership of Christ, and what a masterful leadership have we represented by the person and work of Jesus of Nazareth. Out of the infinite resources of His divine nature have flowed the forces which have marshalled the ages, moulded the nations and given to the human spirit attributes and inspirations which were foreign to the world, even in its best estate before the incarnation. And despite many modern prophecies, this leadership Christ is not going to abdicate. The world's future belongs to Him. His throne is for ever and ever. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed. Therefore we may rest assured, that as in the creation out of confusion came order, and out of darkness came light, so amid the turbulence and unrest of to-day the shepherd and Bishop of our souls is leading His people to see more and appreciate more fully, the ministry and message of the Kingdom of God.

KNOWLEDGE AS WELL AS LEADERSHIP.

2. Christ is the good shepherd because He knows His people. Strange as it may seem to us, the Oriental shepherd has a personal knowledge of each member of the flock committed to his care. So it is with Christ, and, therefore, in a sense and with feelings that human shepherd never felt, He can say: "I know my sheep." And this personal knowledge of Christ concerning each member of His flock confers a wondrous dignity upon the individual. To have these little lives of ours made the focus in which shall centre the guiding, fostering, protecting rays of a divine love that knows neither change nor decay, what more can mortal ask this side of Heaven?

The royal decorations, the imperial adornments for which men sacrifice so much in the service of their sovereigns, are insignificant baubles when brought into comparison with the honor, the wealth that the omniscience of Christ confers upon all the sons of God. And the consciousness of such a dignified relationship makes the beggar a prince, turns his hovel into a palace, his rags into a robe, his staff into a sceptre and sheds upon all the squalor and wretchedness of his surroundings the foretaste and prophecy of celestial glories.

Again, the conviction of this divine nearness develops the latent powers of the least and the weakest in the Kingdom of God, so that under the inspiration of its touch the blind see, the deaf hear, the dumb speak, the lame walk, the dead are raised and the commonplace of mortals becomes the heroic martyr, the devoted missionary by whom the greatest things are expected and the grandest things attempted. And, furthermore, the certainty of this divine solicitude ministers as nothing else can do to that loneliness the bitterness of which to a greater or less degree finds its way into the cup of every human life. And when at last the silver cord is being loosed and the golden bowl being broken, this great truth will enable the believer with much confidence to say: "The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want."

A WILLING SACRIFICE FOR THE PEOPLE.

3. Christ is the good shepherd because He laid down His life for His people. The best of illustrations only light up the spheres of truth in sections, and so when we speak of the oriental shepherd defending, even unto death, his flock from the attack of the midnight robber or the stealthy spring of the wild beast, we have only the merest suggestion of that mighty redemptive work which Christ represents when he says: "I lay down my life for the sheep." And that laying down was purely voluntary. The voice which in such an imperial manner had stilled the storm upon Galilee's lake refused to utter one syllable to calm the fury of that mob which gathered about Pilate's bar.

Though possessed of all power, so that He could call legions of angels for His defence, yet He allowed brutal minds and cruel hands to wound His person and at last lead Him like a lamb to the slaughter. And such a death was the very essence of degradation. It is one thing to die in the flames rescuing those about to perish, or upon the battlefield in defence of human rights; but it is far different to be compelled to endure the vilgar buffoonery of a mock trial and then, without cause, to be subjected to all the disgrace and shame of an accursed and cruel death. This degradation is infinitely aggravated when you remember that the person subjected to such kinominy was none other than the Lord of life and glory. And His death was one of the intensest suffering. There were not only the burning thirst and all the awful torture of the crucifixion, there were also the treachery, the blasphemy, the base ingratitude of those He came to serve; there was also the almost infinite weight of the world's guilt pressing upon the soul of the Sin Bearer, and, furthermore, there was that mysterious hiding of the Father's face, which at last drew from the lips of the lone sufferer the woe-laden words: "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

But none of these steps in our Saviour's passion were superfluous. Each had its place in the completion of man's redemption. Hence, He was despised and rejected of men